



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

## Ft. Worth, TX

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

*EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (BCRLF) programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years), to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.*

### BACKGROUND

Fort Worth is the thriving western anchor of a rapidly growing metropolitan area. Once dependent on defense, oil, and agriculture, the City's economy has become more diversified, securing over 15,000 high-tech jobs in the last five years. While there is an overall feeling of prosperity, several city council districts still have high poverty and unemployment levels. In these areas, which are often centers of minority populations (Black and Hispanic), unemployment is still as high as 7% to 10%, and 25% to 32% of the people in these areas live below the poverty line. Brownfields sites remain a key barrier to business relocation and the creation of opportunities for local residents. The BCRLF program will assist the City in its efforts to revitalize these areas.

In the first year of Fort Worth's Brownfields Program, which included the "Bust a Brownfield" outreach program, 223 potential candidates for redevelopment were identified. Sites ranged from less than one acre to more than 70 acres. Phase I and Phase II site assessments have been conducted for a number of these sites. More than 70% of these sites are located within three targeted city council districts that have the highest minority populations and are the most economically disadvantaged in the City.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Fort Worth, TX

**Date of Announcement:**  
April 2001

**Amount:** \$1.0 million

**BCRLF Target Area:**  
Sites located within City  
Council Districts 2, 5, & 8

### Contacts:

Regulatory/Environmental Coordinator Department of Environmental Management (817) 871-8136	Region 6 Brownfields Coordinator (214) 665-6688
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Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/Region06/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

## BCRLF OBJECTIVES

Fort Worth's brownfields goals are to: (1) identify and assess brownfields sites, (2) promote the cleanup and redevelopment of identified brownfields, (3) maintain a database of sites to track assessment, remediation, and reuse, (4) reduce associated health risks, (5) reduce crime associated with abandoned buildings, and (6) increase public awareness of the needs and progress of brownfields activities and issues.

## FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The City of Fort Worth will serve as the lead agency. The City's Department of Environmental Management will serve as site manager. The City has not yet chosen a fund manager but may utilize either a community or economic development corporation currently involved in fund management for the City.

## LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

The City has leveraged millions of dollars in Economic Development Initiative grants and Section 108 loans from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, along with additional millions in grants from the Economic Development Administration, to aid in the redevelopment of the most economically distressed areas of the City. Additional funds are available for site assessment and the preparation of cleanup plans through the Brownfields Site Assessment program managed by the Voluntary Cleanup Program office.

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*Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.*

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